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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/533,591	03/23/2000	Jung Chuan Chou	H000010	1107
7590	12/11/2003		EXAMINER	
INTELECTUAL PROPERTY SOLUTIONS, INCORPORATED 5717 COLFAX AVENUE ALEXANDRIA, VA 22311			ORTIZ, EDGARDO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2815	

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No. 09/533,591	Applicant(s) Chou Et.al.
	Examiner Edgardo Ortiz	Art Unit 2815
		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED Nov 8, 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid the abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

THE PERIOD FOR REPLY [check only a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s):

4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.

6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 1-11 _____

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

10. Other:

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Continuation Sheet:

Serial Number: 09/533,591

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive. Applicant argues that "*there is no teaching or suggestion in APA of which method will be the most promising solution to fabricate an amorphous WO₃ layer satisfying the requirements for a sensing gate layer in an ISFET device*" and that "*Covington and APA neither alone nor in combination, teach or suggest a reasonable expectation of success to make the claimed invention.*"

The examiner notes that, as stated in the final rejection, Covington essentially teaches the claimed semiconductor structure but fails to teach the amorphous tungsten oxide layer overlying a gate oxide layer in a gate structure. Applicant's own specification discloses there is a potential for using a-WO₃ as a sensing membrane and that most of the WO₃ layers are amorphous, polycrystalline or crystalline in nature. Therefore, the suggestion to use an amorphous tungsten oxide layer, which has a large resistivity and thus is ideal for use as a sensor, is clearly stated. The claimed method (RF sputtering) of producing the amorphous tungsten oxide layer does not structurally distinguish the claimed apparatus invention from the disclosures of Covington and Applicant's admitted prior art.